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## **Use Alternative Heat Sources Safely**

People often turn to alternative heat sources to stay warm when the temperature plummets. Remember to use caution when using alternative heating sources.

Types of alternative heating sources often seen include:

- Portable electric heaters
- Liquid-fueled heaters: kerosene, waste oil
- Gas-burning heaters: propane is most common
- Solid-fuel heating: wood-burning, pellet-burning

Any heating appliance with an open flame needs to be vented to the outside because the combustion process of burning fuel uses oxygen and also gives off carbon monoxide — a deadly combination inside of a home.

## **Other Tips for Alternative Heat Sources**

- Keep anything flammable -- including pets and people -- at least three feet away from heating equipment.
- Make sure portable space heaters have an automatic shut-off.
- Turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Space heaters need constant watching. Never leave a space heater on when you go to sleep. Never place a space heater close to any sleeping person.
- Make sure all cords on electric heaters are in good shape and checked periodically for any frays or breaks in the insulation surrounding the wires.